

Minutes of Tuesday, September 6, 2011, CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan and D. Stillinger. Also attending was Matt Palmer, NRI Update Committee.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2011 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from June 7, 2011 were approved, motioned by F. Esposito and 2nd by S. Carroll, with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND JANUARY 2012.

Every first Tuesday except no meeting in July. Chatham Township municipal building 7:15 PM: Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6 in 2011, and second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012.

GREEN TEAM MEETING S. Carroll, Green Team Chair

Fishawack – low turnout. CTEC reviewed proposed SJ actions; members are encouraged to add to list. CTEC agreed to use the township's Green Challenge form, not the boroughs. This form can be completed in person at the Green Fair or through email. Green Team meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. LOI and General Permit application. 348 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 39.03. Tributary of Black Brook passes through southwest corner. Along the southwest property line there is an access easement to Township-owned property in the rear. CTEC discussed and viewed maps of property. S. Carroll motioned to approval draft letter to NJDEP, with one minor edit to include stream on property and K. Abbott 2nd, with all in favor.

NEW. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. CTEC discussed and viewed maps of property. S. Carroll motioned and K. Abbott 2nd, with all in favor to approval memo to NJDEP and also to NJBPU to be mailed and also to be presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

PENDING. Discuss observations from August 6 site visit. Review new plans. FAIRMOUNT AVENUE & JOHNSON DRIVE. 3-4-11. Block 38, Lots 44 & 45. Primavera Parkview, LLC. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 2 lot minor subdivision on corner of Fairmount and Johnson. Currently one house on the two lots. Propose to change lot lines so one lot fronts on Johnson Drive and one on Fairmount instead of both fronting on Fairmount as they do now. Currently there are 93 trees over 6", will remove 49. Proposed new lot 44.01 will have 3,423 SF usable lot area (7,000 required) - both current lots have about 7,000 SF usable lot area. Question - why change lot lines when both lots now have required usable lot area? Both proposed lots will have municipal water and sewers, and both proposed lots appear to be well under the allowed impervious coverage. CTEC discussed this application regarding the August Planning Board meeting which is either pending or may have been approved.

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot.

Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. This property may have threatening endangered species. Adjacent to Long Hill Twp open space property. CTEC members can attend 9/12 Planning Board meeting to express their views. CTEC will notify Long Hill Township Environmental Commission.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. HS parking lot issues not resolved. Waiting on a response from the school board engineer. L. Caprioglio.

Township Committee report. Nothing to report as per D. Stillinger for K. Tubbs.

Open Space Committee report. No report

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. Single stream recycling has been implemented in the Township. More materials can be recycled. Recycling information was sent out in the tax bill. The Rocket composting is receiving a lot of interest and a demo dvd will be created. P. Collington.

Communications Committee report. Frank will manage emails, receiving 10 +/- a day. It was decided that every year a new CTEC member will be selected to manage emails. A system to archive emails has begun to be set up. The Rocket recycling receives a lot of email. Need a better filter on email. F. Esposito, P. Collington.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Safe Route to school meeting at CHS, to establish less congestion, get more kids to walk to school. This project has been delayed due to hurricane and rain. Bike racks have been purchased by school. There will be a sidewalk assessment. This is a Joint project for CTEC and Open Space. K. Abbott
- Discussion regarding the township hiring their own consultant to assess properties in which development is being requested. CTEC Chair stated that the Planning Board can hire a consultant and the applicant is responsible for payment.
- Model conservation easement agreement has been submitted to Township Committee for approval and resolution. D. Stillinger, L. Caprioglio.
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 4-18-11 and 9-6-11. Will do most of the updating with volunteers. ANJEC has provided a CD with sample NRIs. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.
- Note the Chatham Township parcel and conservation easement mapping site. To find out owner and land information about parcels and conservation easements go to chathamtownship.org, click on GIS Mapping and follow the prompts. Click the word "parcels" in the layer list, click the Identify tool at the top and then click on the parcel on the map to see information such as owner & area. Click the word "conservation easements", click the Identify tool, click the easement to see details of the conservation easements.
- Purchase of laptop as been done by S. Krishnan.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- September 2011 Letter to NJDEP - 348 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 39.03 CTEC recommend wetlands be very carefully delineated.
- September 2011 Memo to NJDEP and to NJBPU for 9/8/11 meeting concerning PSE&G work along power lines row.
- June 2011. Memo to Planning Board concerning Longview application.
- May 2011. Memo to School District of the Chathams urging Green construction practices for proposed parking lot and building addition. Letter to NJDEP opposing Waiver Rule. Memo to Chatham Township Committee requesting open space tax funds to remove trash from two Township properties on Green Village Road.

EVENTS

- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library. Program resumes in September.
- Thursday September 8, 7-10 p.m. NJBPU public hearing for PSE&G's North Central Reliability Project. Chatham High School, 255 Lafayette Avenue, Chatham Township. The NCRP will upgrade transmission lines and substations from existing 138,000-volt (138kV) to 230,000-volt (230kV) power. The NCRP spans approximately 35 miles. It will go through West Orange, Livingston, Roseland, Florham Park, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, New Providence, Berkeley

Heights, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark, Edison, Metuchen and Woodbridge along an existing PSE&G overhead right-of-way. More information about the project can be found on the project Web site at ncreliabilityproject.pseg.com.

- Thursday, September 22, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.

- Sat., September 24, 9 AM - 2 PM. Green Fair of the Chathams. Chatham Borough Gazebo near the railroad station.

- Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 8:00am - 10:00am, Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Morris County Green Table Forum <<http://morrisgreentable.org/>> Bioretention Basins - Cost Effective Stormwater Management the Native Way. Guest Speakers: Pat Rector - County Environmental and Resource Management Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Dr. Stephen Souza - President, Princeton Hydro, Art Vespignani (Moderator) - Whippany River Watershed Action Committee.

- Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 7:30 pm. Eco Film and Discussion Series of the Chathams showing of Carbon Nation on , at the Library of the Chathams, free of charge.

- Sat., October 15, ANJEC Environmental Congress, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft. NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin will speak. Cost is usually around \$60 for CTEC members.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Two magazines entitled "Resource Recycling", for June and July 2011.

- Chatham Township budget statements for CTEC.

- Newspaper article from Gannett NJ Newspapers about recycling food waste

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.

ADJOURN 9:45 PM

Carolyn Scannelli